

**Flathead Community of Resource Educators  
January 22, 2020 Meeting – Scared Waters Brewing Co.**

**In attendance:** *Holly Church* (Flathead Lake Biological Station);  
*Kathy Martin* (Hockaday Museum of Art);  
*Laura Law* (Glacier Natl. Park);  
*Brian Schwartz* (Lone Pine State Park Mgr.);  
Mary Jo Gardner (retired teacher, community volunteer);  
*Denny Olson* (Flathead Audubon);  
*Casey Lewis* (City of Kalispell);  
*Emilie Henry* (Big Sky Watershed Corps Member);  
*Mikaela Richardson* (Big Sky Watershed Corps Member);

*Hailey Graf* (Flathead Conservation District);  
*Ann Maire Bowlus* (MT Conservation Corps);  
*Sheena Pate* (Crown of the Continent Geotourism Council);  
*Melissa Sladak* (Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center);  
*Laurie Lapan* (Deer Park School, teacher);  
*Randy Hohf* (Whitefish Center for Sustainability & Entrepreneurship);  
*Derrick Rathe* (Lone Pine State Park);  
*Teresa Wenum* (Flathead Natl. Forest)

**Thank you all for coming and helping to celebrate Laura's support over the years to Flathead CORE; and wish her well in her new role as the Chief of Interpretation with the Nez Perce National Historic Park in Idaho.**

**Follow up on Winter Trails Day Events – January 18**

Thank you Flathead Audubon, Glacier Natl. Park and Lone Pine State Park, for hosting a community Winter Trails event!

Fifteen folks joined Denny for a Flathead Audubon led walk along the river bottom at Owen Sowerwine Natural Area – with eight additional interested folks on a wait list, Denny plans to host a second winter walk.

Lone Pine State Park hosted 18 people, the lack of snow, didn't diminish enthusiasm – one family traveled from Great Falls to join in the day's activities.

A total of 57 people participated in the two ranger-led snowshoe walks in Glacier NP, with participants able to borrow snowshoes for free in recognition of Winter Trails Day.

[Flathead Watershed Through the Seasons](#) – The winter session for this year-long professional development series for teachers, hosted by Flathead CORE, is this coming weekend, Jan. 24-26, at the Izaak Walton Inn – theme is all about snow and snow resources with opportunity to get hands-on time learning about snow and snow water equivalent measurements, avalanche awareness and safety and winter wildlife ecology. Last session, will take place at Lone Pine State Park, April 17-18. Watch for information about the 2020-21 workshop – applications will be accepted Feb. 18 through March 15, or until the 12 openings are filled – check link above for info and how to apply.

[CORE Website](#) – Thank you Hailey and the Flathead Conservation District (FCD) for supporting the CORE website! FCD provided web hosting and domain name funding through 2022.

Hailey shared that the FCD board did express some hesitation with funding, with CORE being an informal network instead of a formal non-profit entity.

Hailey will take care of basic admin needs of site. There is still a need to keep an active web page committee with folks interested in the ‘care and feeding’ of the site – posting current events, uploading new photos, updates to provider list etc. Melissa recommended reaching out to FVCC graphic design program for students interested in gaining web design and web page content experience that may could help with the CORE page. **If you shared an upcoming event at the meeting, Hailey did offer to post event on the CORE page – email her a short description with contact info and/or event flyer – [hailey@flatheadcd.org](mailto:hailey@flatheadcd.org)**

**Spring Events** – Flathead Valley Earth Day, [Climate Smart Glacier Country](#) is taking the lead to help coordinate this year’s event. Group formed a subcommittee to take this on and they welcome any interested groups or individuals to join the planning committee. Details still being worked out for location and activities. **Contact Casey Lewis if interested in learning more about how to help out, [Casey.lewis0907@gmail.com](mailto:Casey.lewis0907@gmail.com)**

This year marks 50 years for Earth Day, <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2020/> 2020 theme – Climate Action

**[Did you know the EPA also turns 50 years in 2020.](#)**

**[Family Forestry Expo](#)** – May 4-8 for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and Saturday, May 9 for the community at the Trumbull Creek Educational Forest. Planning committee looking for someone with writing, editing skills to help update the student workbook – stipend available. If interested in leading a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to their different learning stations or teaching at a station, contact Teresa, [teresa.wenum@usda.gov](mailto:teresa.wenum@usda.gov)

### **Round Robin**

*Flathead Lake Bio Station* working with CSKT will again host Mussel Walks in 2020 – station helped with five walks in 2019. Watch for more info to come with events at the Bio Station, Polson, north end of Flathead Lake...

Look for the new Aquatic Invasive Species Curriculum Trunk, targeted to middle schools in the Flathead Watershed. “The AIS Trunk is a collaborative effort between the Bio Station, the Flathead Lakers and state agencies and aims to educate students and teachers about the importance of preventing the spread of AIS, such as invasive mussels.” Curriculum will be posted on the station’s website.

*Do you have your 2<sup>nd</sup> edition copy of the [Flathead Watershed Sourcebook](#)? Are there organizations, teachers, individuals you know of that have not received a copy? The Flathead Conservation District has copies – contact Mikaela with the Flathead Conservation District, [flatheadcd@macdnet.org](mailto:flatheadcd@macdnet.org) to get copies. If you can distribute copies to others, contact Mikaela...Teresa can distribute to Expo teachers, when delivering expo workbooks – Ann Marie said she could distribute copies when she does her MCC youth crew recruitment at area schools.*

Flathead Conservation District continues work on their new 1 acre [Demonstration Garden](#). FCD is also working to bring the Pollinator Project to the Flathead – includes a future showing of the [Pollinators](#) film.

Sheena encouraged everyone to check out the state of Montana's new [Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\)](#)

"Montana's five-year strategy and vision for outdoor recreation management...The document helps all levels of public land managers and private recreation providers meet needs pertaining to outdoor recreation." Plan is broken into 6 key goals/recommendations:

Goal 1: Promote Outdoor Recreation Opportunities for All Montanans

Goal 2: Enhance Public Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities

Goal 3: Support Economic Vitality of Communities and State

Goal 4: Improve Quality of Life Through Outdoor Recreation Experiences

Goal 5: Adapt Outdoor Recreation for a Changing Environment

Goal 6: Honor Montana's Outdoor Legacy

Roadmap to help guide us all when looking at education projects – when you take a look, you'll see how outdoor learning is a key theme throughout and working in partnership with federal, state and local agencies, non-profits, private industry and business...

[Montana Conservation Corps](#)- recruiting for summer middle and high school programs, and crew leaders  
Will be contacting area teachers to get the word out – contact Ann Marie, Youth Program Coordinator [annmarie@mtcorps.org](mailto:annmarie@mtcorps.org) if you have teacher contacts to share, and getting word out for crew leaders.

**Next CORE meetings...**

March 25 and May 20

Location TBA